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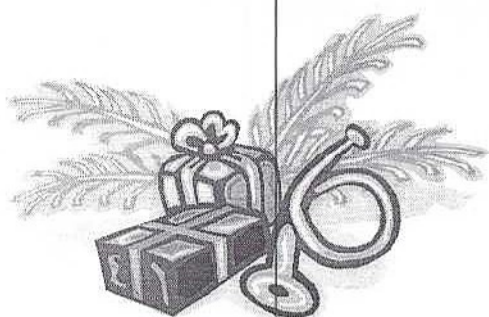
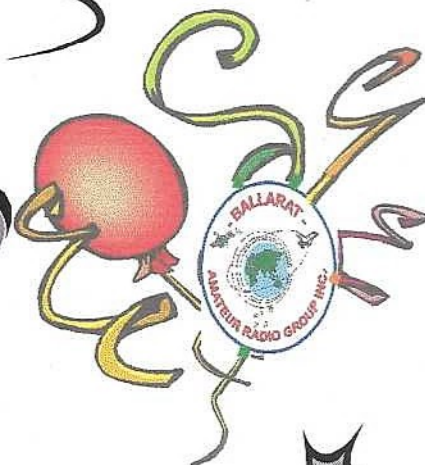
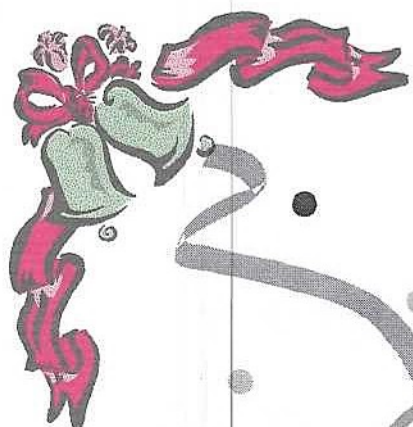
B.A.R.G. NEWS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BALLARAT AMATEUR RADIO GROUP INC.

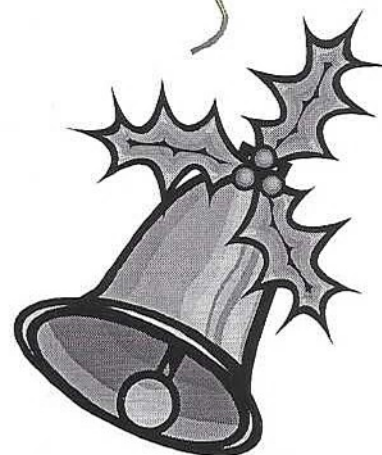
Volume 21 Issue 12

VK3BML

DECEMBER 1998

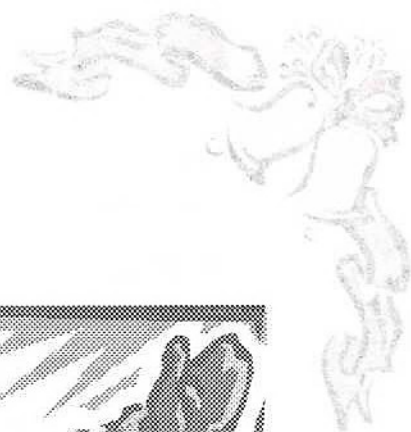


MERRY
CHRISTMAS



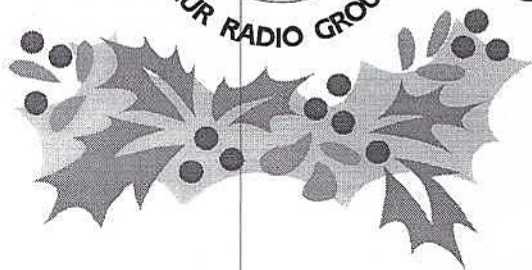
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A Merry Christmas from Mary C.



On behalf of the Committee of B.A.R.G.

I would like to wish all of our members and associates a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Rewarding New Year in 1999. Unfortunately we all seem to be vulnerable to accident and risk during the holiday period, especially on our roads, so it is incumbent on us all to drive safely and be patient to the needs of others during the Festive Season. Enjoy, Eat and drink wisely, and stay safe. Our Best Wishes go to all.

73 de Mary VK3FMC



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The Trip to "Tulla"

From Charlie VK3DCS



Well I am here again to tell of our trip to the airport. No not the one at Ballarat but at the big-un at TULLAMARINE. We gathered at the club rooms about 5-30pm on Friday 13th Nov. and departed at 5-45pm. We had a 12 place bus, our driver was David VK3AMC with 10 passengers. At the exit of ballarat air port we met Jeff VK3PAP with one passenger, we travelled together until we reached Tullamarine where we met Mike VK3AUR with 3 more club members, a total of 17 in all.

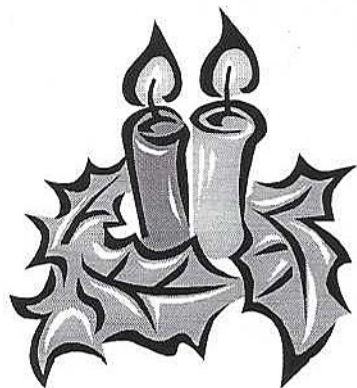
After getting lost near the main terminal we found our way to the Airport Fire Service. We were met by one of the firemen and were taken to their lecture room, where we were given a brief talk on the fire service and the first aid service.

We then split into two groups and were shown around the station, first to the observation tower. At this point they have a chap sitting and watching every plane that comes or goes, this is within about 3 or 4 hundred metres of the runway. It was great to see these very large planes like the 747 landing.

Next to the garage are the fire engines. They are built just for the one purpose - airport fire fighting. Powered by V12 - 12 litre engines, their wheels are very wide so as not to sink in when they get off the hard tarmac surface. We were told how they mix foam and water for different jobs. This was then demonstrated outside with very impressive results.

It was a very well worth while trip, and remember how little it cost. We said goodbye to Cath, Ian, Helen and Mike at the air port and headed for home. But David got lost again and instead of going to the Pub we wound up at McDonalds, arriving back at the club rooms at midnight.

It was a very interesting trip and I am looking forward to the next one, Thanks to our President and Committee for a job well done, and a MERRY CHRISTMAS to all. Cheers and beers Charlie VK3DCS.



Editor Norm (VK3LBA) and Val,
wish all B.A.R.G. members and their families
a VERY HAPPY and SAFE FESTIVE SEASON
and a HAPPY and HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

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THE Question !

We republish the famous answer to an often asked question.

THE EDITORIAL PAGE – NEW YORK SUN – 1897.

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the fiends of *The Sun*.

Dear Editor.

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in The Sun it is so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus ?

Virginia O'Hanlon.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the scepticism of a sceptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

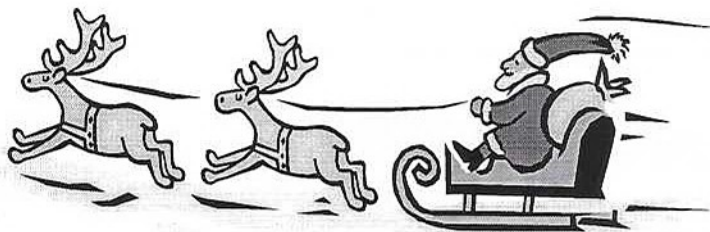
Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas ! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch all of the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn ? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

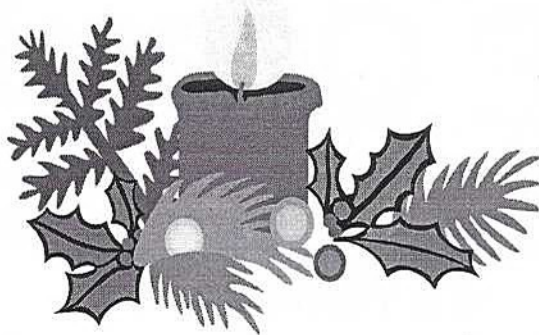
You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men who ever lived could tear apart. Only Faith, Poetry, Love and Romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond.

Is it all real ? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus ! Thank God ! he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.



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PLEASE NOTE
CUT OFF DATE FOR ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION IS
NOW THE SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH.

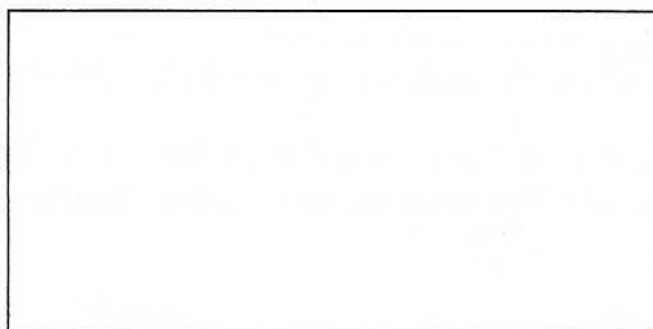
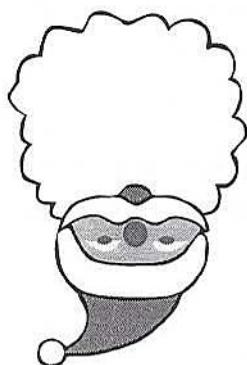
B.A.R.G.
The Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc.



A group of radio enthusiasts licensed to experiment with
local and international radio communications on an amateur basis.

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME.

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